Claim amendments

1 (currently amended): An isolated cDNA of a mammalian ELF3 gene, or fragment thereof at least 20 nucleotides long, comprising at least one intron of the ELF3 gene or a portion of an intron of the ELF3 gene, wherein the ELF3 gene comprises a contiguous sequence at least about 80% homologous to SEQ ID NO:10.

2 (original): The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the intron is selected from the group consisting of intron 4, intron 5, intron 6, intron 7, intron 8, and combinations thereof.

3-12 (canceled)

13 (currently amended): The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the cDNA also comprises a sequence at least 90% homologous to at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:13.

14-15 (canceled)

16 (original): The cDNA of claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO:11.

17-18 (canceled)

19 (original): The cDNA of claim 1, comprising introns 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the ELF3 gene.

20 (original): The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the ELF3 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

21 (canceled)

22 (currently amended): The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the cDNA was prepared from a composition comprising a cell~~, wherein the cell further comprises genomic DNA comprising an Alu_{kwd}, wherein the Alu_{kwd} consists of SEQ ID NO:13~~.

23 (canceled)

24 (original): The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the cDNA was prepared from a composition comprising a cell, the cell obtained from a human patient being tested for breast cancer.

25 (original): The cDNA of claim 24, wherein the patient is at high risk for breast cancer.

26 (original): The cDNA of claim 22, wherein the cell is a peripheral blood mononuclear cell.

27 (original): The cDNA of claim 22, wherein the cell was obtained from a tissue biopsy.

28-33 (canceled)

34 (original): A vector comprising the cDNA of claim 1.

35 (original): A cell transfected with the vector of claim 34.

36-40 (canceled)

41 (currently amended): A set of two primers, each less than 30 nucleotides in length, wherein each primer is homologous to a portion of an ELF3 gene, and (a)

wherein at least one primer is homologous to a portion of an intron of the ELF3 gene or (b) wherein each primer is homologous to a portion of different exons of the ELF3 gene, wherein the set of two primers are capable of directing RT-PCR synthesis of the cDNA of claim 1.

42-71 (canceled)

72 (currently amended): A probe homologous to the cDNA of claim 1, ~~comprising the isolated nucleic acid or mimetic of claim 53,~~ the probe further comprising a detectable label.

73-118 (canceled)

119 (new): The isolated cDNA of claim 1, wherein the ELF3 gene is at least about 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:10.

120 (new): The cDNA of claim 1, wherein the cDNA also comprises a sequence completely homologous to at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:13.

121 (new): A probe homologous to the cDNA of claim 13, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

122 (new): A probe homologous to the cDNA of claim 16, the probe further comprising a detectable label.

123 (new): A probe homologous to the cDNA of claim 20, the probe further comprising a detectable label.